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PATENT AF  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1637

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Francoise Vinet et al.  
Serial No.: 09/997,605 Art Unit: 1637  
Filing Date: November 29, 2001  
Title: SOLID SUPPORT FOR IMMOBILIZING  
OLIGONUCLEOTIDES  
Examiner: Jeffrey Siew  
Docket No.: 34176

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 1.116

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The three-month period for responding to the  
Office action of December 3, 2003 expired on March 3,  
2004. A Notice of Appeal accompanied by a Petition for  
Extension of Time to June 3, 2004 are being  
simultaneously filed on this date together with the

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22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Joseph J. Corso

Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

5/27/2004

Date

Signature of Attorney

appropriate fees. A copy of these documents are enclosed herewith.

In response to the Office action of December 3, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.